

its dedication to the highest standards. In addition, as Paul Gosselin, United's Executive Director, noted, "We have achieved accreditation but I believe it can only be a stimulus for continued improvement." This commitment and United Ambulance's "gold standard" will serve the people of the region well. I congratulate the employees of United Ambulance on their achievement, and, on behalf of the people they serve, thank them for their dedication and hard work.

CONGRATULATING AL HEFFERNAN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Al Heffernan, on the occasion of his retirement from Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation in McIntosh, AL.

During his 20-year tenure at Ciba, Al served as plant manager and executive director of the McIntosh site, the largest manufacturing site globally within Ciba. He also served as director of environment health and safety and director of engineering.

Al began his career in 1973 at the Ethyl Corporation as an engineer and project manager. After 8 years, he moved on to Barnard and Burk Engineers and Constructors, where he worked for 5 years as a division head and chief engineer. In 1986, he accepted his job with Ciba and started as a project engineering superintendent at the St. Gabriel, LA, site. Over the next 20 years, he served as manager of project engineering at the McIntosh site and head of engineering in Europe before returning to McIntosh in 1995.

In addition to his dedication to Ciba, Al has devoted countless hours to civic and industrial activities. He chaired the steering committee and served as the first chairman of the board of Manufacture Alabama. He founded Washington County Economic Development Initiative and serves on the board. Al is past president of the board of directors for The Forum, as well as past chairman, executive committee member, and member of the board of directors for the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. With an obvious desire to help others, Al serves on the board of WHIL FM91.3, a Mobile public radio station; Partners for Environmental Progress; McIntosh Industrial Park Association; McIntosh Area Betterment Association; and Alabama School of Mathematics and Science Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know his family, his wife, Vickie; their three children, John Mason Heffernan, Lee Ellen Heffernan, and Matthew Evan Heffernan; his many friends; and past and present Ciba employees join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the city of McIntosh and Alabama's First Congressional District.

Al will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with family and loved

ones. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

THANKING MR. SIDNEY BERGER
FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND
SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the hard work and commitment that Mr. Sidney Berger has given to my alma mater, the University of Houston, for the past 38 years. As the director of the University of Houston's Drama Department, he has led the department to national acclaim.

From the time he became chairman of the drama department in 1969, to today, the department has grown from a three-person faculty and 30 students to a faculty of 15 and 300 students. This is an admirable accomplishment.

A significant factor that has shaped this growth has been Mr. Berger's central belief that young artists who are developing their talents should have the chance to work with great artists. Inspired by these beliefs, Mr. Berger founded the Houston Shakespeare Festival in 1975 and 3 years later co-founded the Children's Theatre Festival. Before the two programs were formed, there was no professional outlet in which theatre students could polish their skills in the city of Houston. Today, students have the opportunity to work with theatre pros from across the city, as well as guest artists. Mr. Berger leaves a legacy as he steps down as director to teach and head the Shakespeare and children's festivals.

Besides staging one play for each one of these programs each summer, and productions in the University of Houston's four show subscription season, Mr. Berger founded the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America. He teaches a course in "Acting Shakespeare" each semester and has served several years on the board of the International Shakespeare's Globe Center.

Mr. Berger will be greatly missed and thanks to his success, the next director has a steady foundation to build upon. Again, we applaud the efforts of Mr. Berger and wish him well in his future endeavors.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, between 1915–1923, the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against 1.5 million Armenians. As the first genocide of the 20th century, this crime against humanity has yet to gain full recognition by the United States.

However, for the first time in history, the majority of Congress supports the Armenian Genocide Resolution, House Resolution 106.

While scholars, historians, and the international community acknowledge the geno-

cide, the Turkish government continues to deny this atrocity. Passing House Resolution and recognizing the Armenian genocide will help prevent other nations from being victims of such horrid tragedies.

By acknowledging the events of 1915, Congress will finally recognize the history of an entire nation—a nation whose population was driven out of their homes, massacred, but never forgotten.

The United States owes Armenians recognition of this great crime, and should pass House Resolution 106.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, better known as the Farm Bill. This measure reflects Rhode Island's priorities: protecting our farmers and surrounding environment and caring for the most vulnerable members of society.

There has been much discussion about reforming the Farm Bill, particularly with regard to how payments are structured to producers of certain commodities like cotton, rice and sugar. H.R. 2419 begins this process by lowering the annual adjusted gross income of farmers eligible for subsidies from \$2.5 million to \$1 million. For farmers making \$500,000 to \$1 million, 67 percent of their income must come from farming or they cannot receive Federal subsidies. This structure will prevent millionaires from receiving farm subsidy benefits, and will also make payments transparent. While I believe we should go further with reform, I look forward to building on this restructuring in future legislation.

This legislation increases funding for important conservation programs for Rhode Island, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. I am also pleased that H.R. 2419 includes funding for specialty crops, which will benefit our fruit, vegetable and nursery crop farmers. These farmers, which make up a large percentage of Rhode Island's farming landscape, will now receive equal assistance and access to conservation programs.

H.R. 2419 increases funding for the nutrition title, which includes food stamps and other programs aimed to combat hunger and improve nutrition for children, the elderly and low-income Americans. This bill reauthorizes programs such as the Community Food Projects program, which awards grants to nonprofit groups that establish community food projects targeted to low-income individuals. This measure also increases funding for school nutrition programs for purchasing fruits, vegetables and nuts, and creates more avenues for produce to flow from local farmers to schools.

Finally, H.R. 2419 also encourages the expansion of renewable energy research and production, contains a new section for horticulture and organic agriculture, and includes funding to make sure our food supply is safe and stable. Mr. Chairman, this legislation helps farmers meet growing environmental challenges, gives consumers more health food choices, and promotes critical renewable energy development. I look forward to passing this measure into law.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
SAMUEL W. DOWNING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Samuel W. Downing, who passed away June 30, 2007, at the age of 45. Captain Downing, who served with distinction in the Mobile Fire-Rescue Department, was a pillar of the Mobile community and will be deeply missed.

Captain Downing, a native of Wilmer, Alabama, was a resident of Mobile County. He served with the department for more than 21 years and was a shift supervisor for Engine 15 and the Hazardous Material Response Team at Gus Rehm Fire Station. In 1995, Captain Downing received the Firefighter's Creed Award.

A colleague recalled Captain Downing's sincere passion for his job. He particularly enjoyed when school groups would tour the fire station. Rather than having them simply walk through the fire station to see the fire trucks and the sleeping quarters, Captain Downing did his best to entertain as well as educate the children. He would also let the kids try on the fire suits and even practice using the fire hose.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Samuel W. Downing. He will be sorely missed by many but most by his beloved wife, Lisa; his three children Cody, Victoria, and Colton; and his brother Wayne. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation.

Iran presents a major problem for the United States on a number of levels. Its overt nuclear ambitions, its interference in the Israeli-Arab peace process, and its support for Hezbollah—which is second only to al Qaeda in the number of American lives it has claimed—as well as Hamas and other terrorist organizations all present challenges to stability in the region.

We must use our economic leverage, among other tools, to address this problem, and this legislation allows us to do that. First, it extends the threat of sanctions to foreign

subsidiaries of American companies if the subsidiaries were acquired or created in order to evade existing prohibitions on trade with Iran. Second, the definition of Iran's petroleum sector is expanded to include petroleum by-products and liquefied natural gas. Third, it expands who may be sanctioned to include the underwriters of these investments in Iran's energy sector.

Iran's economy is heavily dependent on oil and gas windfall profits, and this money is also used to fund terrorism and its nuclear program. This bill is a crucial part of continuing sanctions efforts, both by the U.S. and the international community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

HENRY FORD SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an important problem that threatens America's position as the world's economic leader. Each year, only 70,000 students graduate from America's colleges with degrees in engineering and technology. In China, more than 700,000 students graduate per year with similar degrees. China, which has the world's fastest growing economy, is quickly becoming a dominant manufacturing power.

To ensure our position as the world's global economic leader, we must encourage students to pursue careers critical to America's industries. An educated workforce will be the stimulus for our economy. Therefore, I have introduced H.R. 1568, the Henry Ford Scholarship Program Act of 2007. By providing college students pursuing engineering, math, science or health care degrees with up to a \$20,000 scholarship, America will create the innovators it needs to sustain our leadership in the competitive global market.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1568. Together we can help our students afford higher education and ensure our economic well-being.

DARFUR DIVESTMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 180, the Darfur Divestment and Accountability Act. This measure supports State, city, and university efforts to divest funds from, or restrict investments in, companies that conduct business operations in Sudan. H.R. 180 works toward a goal of ending a travesty that has resonated with people all over the world.

My home State of Rhode Island has been active on this tragic issue for many years, with Providence becoming the first U.S. city to divest from companies tied to the Sudanese

Government in 2006. Just this past month, Rhode Island passed Sudan divestment into law. These actions would not have been possible without our very active student population, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their persistent advocacy.

Like my constituents, I am deeply concerned over the ongoing violence and humanitarian disaster in the Darfur region. It is truly a tragedy that we have not learned from our mistakes in the past regarding genocide, but it is not too late to change the situation in Sudan. It is our duty to end this human suffering, and as a member of the Sudan Caucus, I will continue to work with my colleagues to stop this conflict and promote peace in Sudan. Passing H.R. 180 is an important and necessary step for Congress to take as we work to achieve this goal.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
EDWARD B. BAUMHAUER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire State of Alabama lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Edward B. Baumhauer was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life.

A graduate of the School of Architecture at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University, Mr. Baumhauer was an award-winning architect. His works include many recognizable buildings in the Mobile community including the building for Little Sisters of the Poor, the contemporary glass Infirmary 65 building, and the renovation of the Government Street Hotel. Mr. Baumhauer won architectural awards for the Ryan-Welsh Stevedoring building and the Lyons, Pipes and Cook law firm office. The Capri Cinema, Mobile's first rocking chair theater, was also one of Mr. Baumhauer's creations. His designs, masterfully created, reflected his passion for his work which he found "much more fascinating than [his original major] mechanical engineering." Throughout his career, Edward Baumhauer served as a principal of several architecture firms; he retired from Baumhauer-Hall Architects in 2002.

In addition to his architecture achievements, Mr. Baumhauer served the city of Mobile and state of Alabama in various other civic capacities. Son of long-time Mobile Mayor Charles A. Baumhauer, Edward Baumhauer was an all-city football player at Murphy High School. While attending Alabama Polytechnic Institute, he was elected the president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He was a member and chairman of the board of deacons at First Baptist Church and a member and president of the local and State chapters of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Baumhauer was also a member of the Fairhope Yacht Club and several mystic organizations.

Mr. Baumhauer proudly served the United States Navy in World War II while stationed aboard a submarine chaser in the western Pacific theater of operations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community